Adult Education Transforms Lives

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What Is Adult Education?

You may think of adult education as learning to read, write, speak English, or do math. It's all those things, and more.

Adult Education is also developing computer skills, studying to become a citizen, or gaining skills to find a job or start a career. It's learning about health, money management, and how to support childrens' learning. Throughout your community, there are schools, libraries, nonprofits, and places of worship working with adults to help them achieve their highest potential.

Why Is It Needed?

Over 40 million adults in the U.S. cannot read above a 3rd grade level, and nearly 63 million cannot do 4th grade math.

One in five adults have trouble reading communications from their children's teachers. One in three adults have difficulty creating a household budget. One in four adults have trouble navigating websites and using digital tools at work. And among immigrants, only half are proficient in English.

Who Benefits?

Everyone! Adult education is a vital contributor to the strength and resilience of every community. Support for adult education is an investment that returns far more than it costs.

Adults who participate in adult education programs have higher incomes, resulting in more spending and higher tax revenue for their community. They have better health outcomes, leading to greater workplace productivity and a reduction in community health care costs. They have higher participation in civic activities like voting.

Be Part of the Solution

Fewer than 10 percent of the adults who could benefit from adult education programs are able to participate in them. Policy and funding limitations leave many communities unserved or underserved.

How Can You Help?

- Contact local, state, and federal elected officials to advocate for adult education funding
- Support adult education programs in your community by donating or by volunteering
- Urge local businesses and employers to invest in adult education and workforce preparation



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Visit national-coalition-literacy.org for more information on advocating for adult education and literacy.

